**TECH ACTIVITY: INTERNET SAFETY**  
1. Based on the information provided in the websites what **Internet safety rules** would you teach upper elementary and middle school students? Consider issues of privacy, safety from predators, inappropriate content, and digital etiquette.

Some Internet safety rules I would teach are: 1) Never give any information about yourself without out first discussing with a parent or teacher (this includes email address and name!) 2) Avoid websites and online situations that make you feel uncomfortable. Would you go on this website in front of your parent or teacher? 3) Use your best judgment; if something doesn’t feel right about an online situation or interaction, notify a parent or teacher 4) Tell someone about instances of Cyberbullying. Even if the person doing the bullying is anonymous, talking about your feelings with someone else, particularly an adult, can help you feel better and keep things in context. Sometime people say awful things on the Internet and it shouldn’t make you feel bad about yourself; talk to someone about it. 5) Use safe sites, visit sites that you know and are familiar with, and when exploring new sites, always view them with a critical eye.   
  
2. Based on the information provided in the websites what safety procedures would you teach older students about **social networking**? Consider issues of privacy, inappropriate content, safety, and digital etiquette.

Some social networking tips I would teach all older students to follow are 1) Be VERY careful what you post on the Internet; sometimes we forget just how public the Internet really is. Even if a site seems private and protected, once a piece of information is put into cyberspace, it exists there FOREVER, and there is always the chance that someone you didn’t intend to see it will find a way to access it. 2) Along those same lines, be aware that posting cruel or malicious comments, even if they aren’t meant to be taken seriously, can have tragic consequences. Do you want your words to lead someone to hurt themselves? Be sensitive, and don’t use the Internet as a tool to hurt others. 3) Don’t give out personal information such as your full name, contact information, address, phone number or even where and when you’ll be. Information like this can be used to do you harm. 4) Be very careful about who you meet on the Internet. Someone may have pictures and friends on Facebook but ultimately, you don’t always know who it is you’re communicating with. 5) NEVER meet someone in person that you met online with out seriously addressing the possible risks with a parent, and NEVER without the accompaniment of that parent or an adult that they give permission to accompany you. 6) Avoid situations that make you uncomfortable, and talk to a parent or teacher when you encounter such situations. Trust your instincts and don’t do anything, even online, that doesn’t feel completely safe.   
  
3. Based on the information provided in the websites what safety procedures would you teach middle and high school students about **cyber bullying**? Include the definition of cyber bullying, how to prevent bullying, and what the victim should do.

Cyberbullying is really an area that I would encourage students to talk about with as many people as possible, parents, teachers, and peers. If someone is saying things that hurt you or make you uncomfortable, communicate with someone about it. I would also encourage students not to take hurtful comments to heart. Many of the individuals who bully others do so out of insecurity or because they are hurting themselves, and often, because the Internet allows people to be one step removed from their victims, they don’t realize the severity of their actions or how many of their comments will resonate. Lastly, do not engage with a Cyberbully. Don’t respond, and don’t retaliate. It really is best to ignore the offender, but don’t ignore your feelings. Talk to trusted friends and adults about it. You may have friends who’ve been through a similar situation and want to talk about it themselves.   
  
4. Based on the information provided in the websites what safety procedures would you teach older students about **sexting**? Consider the definition of sexting, possible consequences for the person who sends sexual messages, and how to report sexually inappropriate content.  
I would let students know that “sexting” is a crime and it can have serious consequences. Like the Internet, phones and other modes of communicating via digital media are much more public than individuals are sometimes aware of. When you share private comments or images on the phone or Internet they are PERMENENTLY available for those viewers and the can be SHARED, on accident or on purpose, with just a simple click. If you receive sexual comments or images on your phone, do NOT share them with others. This is illegal and can have serious repercussions. Talk to a trusted adult. Also, much like Cyberbullying, sexting or sharing sexual comments or images with others can have tragic consequences. Do not take part in destroying someone’s reputation and you might have to bear a heavy burden on your conscience and with digital media THERE IS NO GOING BACK; once it’s out there, it’s out there, and it can spread like wildfire.   
5. Based on the information provided in the websites what safety procedures would you teach middle and high school students about **cyber security**? Consider the dangers from hackers, viruses, and spyware and precautions students can take to avoid these dangers.  
Whenever possible, use trusted and familiar sites. Avoid clicking on popups and icons that appear when visiting a website. Do not share your password with anyone; even sharing it with a friend is basically the same as sharing it with all their friends, and the friends of those friends, etc. It only takes telling one person to start a chain reaction. Use a strong password, one that won’t be easily guessed and preferably one that has a combination of letters and numbers. Never list any personal information online unless you have talked to a parent or teacher and they have both given you permission. Be suspicious! The Internet has made stealing peoples’ credit card information and identities EASY. Always have these risks in mind and avoid situations that feel ‘fishy’ to you.